

R E P O R T

FROM

STANDING COMMITTEE D

ON THE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL

WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
14th May, 1919.

L O N D O N :
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through any Bookseller, or directly from
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
IMPERIAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C. 2, and 28, ANSELMS STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1;
37, PETER STREET, MANCHESTER; 1, ST. ANDREW'S CARRIAGE, CARDIFF;
28, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH;
or from R. PONSONBY, LIMITED, 116, GRAPPAH STREET, DUBLIN.

1919.

Price 3d. Net.

1919.

STANDING COMMITTEE D.

[Wednesday, 26th February, 1919]:—Sir Samuel Roberts reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had agreed to the following Resolution, which they had directed him to report to the House:—

"That, after a Bill has been under consideration in Standing Committees, no application for change in the composition of that Committee in respect of that Bill shall be entertained by the Committee of Selection."

[Tuesday, 4th March, 1919]:—Sir Samuel Roberts reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had nominated the following Members to serve on Standing Committee D:—

STANDING COMMITTEE D.

Sir William Barton.
Sir Edward Beauchamp.
Mr. Bowerman.
Major Brassy.
Major Breeze.
Mr. Broad.
Lieutenant-Colonel Bargouye.
Colonel Campion.
Lieutenant-Colonel Spander Clay.
Mr. Clough.
Sir Clifford Cory.
Mr. Alfred Thomas Davies (Lincoln).
Mr. Bartley Dennis.
Mr. Finney.
Mr. Foreman.
Mr. Glanville.
Mr. Duncan Graham.
Major Henderson.
Mr. Hurd.
Mr. Irving.

Mr. Edward Kelly.
Mr. Konyon.
Mr. Lindsay.
Major William Murray.
Mr. Reginald Nicholson.
Mr. Pennifather.
Sir John Randles.
Mr. Frederick Roberts.
Mr. Royce.
Sir William Seager.
Mr. Seddon.
Mr. Strauss.
Mr. Thomson.
Mr. Toolitt.
Sir John Tudor Walters.
Colonel Weston.
Lieutenant-Commander Williams.
Colonel Henry Williams.
Lieutenant-Colonel Willoughby.
Mr. William Young.

[Thursday, 6th March, 1919]:—Sir Samuel Roberts reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Members from Standing Committee D: Sir William Barton and Mr. Trevelyan Thomson; and had appointed in substitution: Major Harker and Sir Alfred Yeo.

[Tuesday, 11th March, 1919]:—Sir Samuel Roberts reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee D: Mr. Glanville; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Hogge.

[Tuesday, 18th March, 1919]:—Sir Samuel Roberts reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee D: Mr. MacCallum Scott; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Secretary Churchill.

[Monday, 24th March, 1919]:—Local Government (Ireland) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read: Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time":—

Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "That" to the end of the Question, and add the words "this House declines to proceed with a Bill which, by establishing proportional representation as the basis of local elections in Ireland, introduces a principle of election in Ireland different from that prevailing in Great Britain"—(Major O'Neill),—instead thereof:—

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."—The House divided; Ayes 107, Noes 27.

Bill read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee.

[Tuesday, 26th March, 1919]:—

DISTRIBUTION BY MR. SPEAKER, PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER No. 47,
OF BILLS COMMITTED TO A STANDING COMMITTEE.

Name of Bill.	Standing Committee.
Local Government (Ireland) Bill	D.

[Wednesday, 26th March, 1919]:—Sir Samuel Roberts reported from the Chairman's Panel; That they had appointed Captain Albert Smith to act as Chairman of Standing Committee D (in respect of the Public Health (Medical Treatment of Children) (Ireland) Bill and the Local Government (Ireland) Bill).

[Thursday, 27th March, 1919]:—Mr. William Nicholson reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee D: Mr. Hogge; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Glanville.

Mr. William Nicholson further reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had added to Standing Committee D the following Fifteen Members (in respect of the Local Government (Ireland) Bill): Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, Mr. Devlin, Captain Dixon, Mr. Gange, Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Guinness, Mr. Harbinson, Mr. Hopkinson, Mr. Macpherson, Mr. Mallalieu, Mr. Moles, Major Newman, Mr. O'Grady, Major Waring, Mr. Ansurin Williams, and Sir Edward Woods.

Mr. William Nicholson further reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had added to Standing Committee D the following Members: Mr. Barn, Mr. William Coote, Sir Maurice Dockrell, Mr. Lynn, Major Morrison-Bell, and Major O'Neill.

[Tuesday, 1st April, 1919]:—Sir Samuel Roberts reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had added to Standing Committee D the following Members: Mr. MacVeagh, Captain Redmond, Mr. Donald, and Mr. Reid.

Sir Samuel Roberts further reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee D: Lieutenant-Colonel Burgynne; and had appointed in substitution: Lieutenant-Colonel Pownall.

R E P O R T.

STANDING COMMITTEE D, to whom the LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL was referred:—Have gone through the Bill and made Amendments thereunto.

14th May, 1919.

STANDING COMMITTEE D.

Thursday, 1st May, 1919.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Captain ALBERT SMITH in the Chair.

Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland	Mr. Moles
Major Barker	Major Morrison-Bell
Sir Edward Beauchamp	Major Newman
Mr. Bowerman	Mr. Reginald Nicholson
Colonel Campion	Major O'Neill
Lieutenant-Colonel Spender Clay	Mr. Pennefather
Mr. Clough	Lieutenant-Colonel Pownall
Mr. William Coote	Sir William Seager
Mr. Devlin	Mr. Seddon
Sir Maurice Dockrell	Mr. Tootill
Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Guinness	Major Waring
Mr. Harbison	Mr. Aseurin Williams
Mr. Kenyon	Lieutenant-Commander Williams
Mr. Lynn	Colonel Peury Williams
Mr. MacVeagh	Lieutenant-Colonel Willoughby
Mr. Mallalieu	Sir Alfred Yeo

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Committee do now adjourn"—(Mr. Devlin).—The Committee divided:—

Ayes, 10.

Mr. Bowerman	Mr. Lynn	Mr. Tootill
Mr. William Coote	Mr. MacVeagh	Sir Alfred Yeo
Mr. Devlin	Mr. Moles	
Mr. Harbison	Major O'Neill	

Noes, 15.

Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland	Sir Maurice Dockrell	Sir William Seager
Major Barker	Lieut.-Col. Walter Guinness	Major Waring
Sir Edward Beauchamp	Mr. Mallalieu	Mr. Aneurin Williams
Colonel Campion	Major Morrison-Bell	Lieut.-Colonel Willoughby
Mr. Clough	Major Newman	
	Mr. Reginald Nicholson	

Clause 1.

Amendment proposed, in page 1, line 6, after the word "area," to insert the words "outside the province of Ulster"—(Major O'Neill).—Debate arising.

The attention of the Chairman having been called to the fact that there were less than 20 Members present, the Committee stood adjourned until 4 o'clock.

Clause 1:—Proposed Amendment further considered.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The Committee divided:—

Ayes, 8.

Major Barker	Mr. Lynn	Mr. Pennefather
Colonel Campion	Mr. Moles	Lieut.-Commander Williams
Mr. William Coote	Major O'Neill	

Noes, 17.

Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland	Mr. Devlin	Major Morrison-Bell
Sir Edward Beauchamp	Sir Maurice Dockrell	Mr. Reginald Nicholson
Mr. Bowerman	Mr. Harbison	Sir William Seager
Lieut.-Colonel Spender Clay	Mr. Kenyon	Major Waring
Mr. Clough	Mr. MacVeagh	Mr. Aneurin Williams
	Mr. Mallalieu	Colonel Penry Williams

Another Amendment proposed, in page 1, line 10, after the word "Act," to insert the words "Provided that any local authority may signify its desire to retain the system of election at present in force, in which case the existing system shall not be altered"—(Mr. Lynn).—Question, "That those words be there inserted,"—put, and negatived.

[The Committee adjourned until Tuesday next at 11 o'clock.]

Tuesday, 6th May, 1919.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Captain ALBERT SMITH in the Chair.

Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland	Mr. Lynn
Sir Edward Beauchamp	Mr. MacVeagh
Major Breese	Mr. Moles
Mr. Broad	Major Morrison-Bell
Lieut.-Colonel Spender Clay	Major Newman
Mr. Clough	Mr. Reginald Nicholson
Mr. William Coote	Major O'Neill
Mr. Bartley Dennis	Lieut.-Colonel Pownall
Mr. Devlin	Mr. Reid
Sir Maurice Dockrell	Sir William Seager
Lieut.-Colonel Walter Guinness	Mr. Seddon
Mr. Harbison	Major Waring
Major Henderson	Mr. Aneurin Williams
Mr. Irving	Lieut.-Commander Williams
Mr. Kenyon	Sir Alfred Yeo
Mr. Lindsay	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL.

Motion made, and Question, "That the Committee do now adjourn"—(Mr. Decline)—put, and negatived.

Clause 1.

Amendment proposed, in page 1, line 12, to leave out the words "aforesaid the Local Government Board, shall by order divide"—(Sir Maurice Dockrell).—Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause,"—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, in page 1, lines 12 and 13, to leave out the words "Local Government Board" in order to insert the words "the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland"—(Mr. Lyons).—Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause,"—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, in page 1, line 18, to leave out the word "shall," in order to insert the word "may"—(Major O'Neill).—Question, "That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause,"—put, and agreed to.

Amendment made, in page 2, line 5, by adding, at the end thereof, the following words:—

"Provided that any urban district or town or so much of any union as is situated in an urban district may be constituted a single urban, town, or poor law electoral area, as the case may be"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Another Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 5, to insert the following words:—

"(g) Before determining the electoral areas as aforesaid, the Local Government Board shall in every case where the local authority affected so desires hold local inquiries in the various counties, county boroughs, urban and rural districts, poor law unions, and towns, as the case may be.

For the purpose of holding such inquiries each existing local government authority shall appoint five delegates having the necessary local knowledge to prepare and submit schemes for the grouping or division of existing electoral areas, and in the event of any difference of opinion between the Local Government Board and the delegates either party shall have a right of appeal to the Lord Lieutenant in Council. Every such appeal shall be heard as the Lord Lieutenant in Council may direct subject to the rules of procedure in Council, and the decision of the Lord Lieutenant in Council thereupon shall be final"—(Major O'Neill).

Question, "That these words be there inserted,"—put, and negatived.

Another Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 5, to add, at the end thereof, the following words:—

"Provided that for the purposes of such division as aforesaid in every borough, including county boroughs, the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses acting by the council shall be the authority responsible for such division, and in all other cases the Local Government Board shall be the authority responsible, and the expression 'authority' where hereinafter referred to shall mean in the case of boroughs and county boroughs the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, and in all other cases the Local Government Board"—(Sir Maurice Dockrell).

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion made, and Question, "That the Committee adjourn until Thursday next, at 11 o'clock"—(Mr. MacVeagh),—put, and agreed to.

Thursday, 8th May, 1919.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Captain Aneurin Smith in the Chair.

Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland	Mr. MacVeagh
Sir Edward Beauchamp	Mr. Moles
Major Breese	Major Newman
Mr. Broad	Mr. Reginald Nicholson
Colonel Campion	Major O'Neill
Lieut.-Colonel Spender Clay	Sir John Randles
Mr. Clough	Captain Redmond
Mr. William Coote	Mr. Reid
Mr. Devlin	Mr. Frederick Roberts
Sir Maurice Dockrell	Sir William Seager
Mr. Donald	Mr. Strauss
Lieut.-Colonel Walter Guinness	Major Waring
Mr. Harbison	Colonel Weston
Major Henderson	Mr. Aneurin Williams
Mr. Irving	Lieut.-Commander Williams
Mr. Lindsay	Sir Alfred Yeo
Mr. Lynn	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL.

Clause 1, further considered.

Another Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 11, to leave out paragraph (a) in order to insert the words:—

"(a) that the total number of members of any county borough council shall not exceed one member for each six thousand of the population of such county borough; and that the total number of members of any urban district council shall not exceed one member for each three thousand of the population of such urban district, provided that no such council shall consist of less than ten members"—(Sir Maurice Dockrell),—instead thereof.

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause,"—put, and agreed to.

Amendments made, in page 2, lines 15 and 16, by leaving out the words "as nearly as may be"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland); and in page 2, line 16, by leaving out from the word "half" to the end of the paragraph, and inserting the words "at least"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland),—instead thereof.

Another Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 19, at the end, to add the words "but so that no such local authority shall have a larger membership than thirty"—(Mr. MacVeagh).—Question, "That those words be there added"—put, and negatived.

Another Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 22, to leave out the word "population," in order to insert the words "the number of electors on the register"—(Mr. Reid),—instead thereof.—Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause,"—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 23, to leave out paragraph (d), in order to insert the words:—

"(d) that the local electoral area shall consist as nearly as may be of twenty thousand local government electors, and that where such electors in any city, town, or borough number less than twenty thousand such city, town, or borough shall be one electoral area"—(Mr. MacVeagh),—instead thereof.

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Another Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 24, to leave out the words "more than nine nor"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).—Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause,"—put, and negatived.

Another Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 25, to leave out the word "three," in order to insert the words "six in the case of any borough electoral area and three in the case of any other local electoral area"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland),—instead thereof.—Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause,"—put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, in line 1, to leave out the word "six" in order to insert the word "seven"—(Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Guinness),—instead thereof.—Question put, "That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the Amendment.—The Committee divided:—

Ayes, 14.

Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland	Major Henderson Mr. Lindsay Mr. Lynn Mr. Moles Mr. Reginald Nicholson	Major O'Neill Sir John Randles Sir William Seager Major Waring Lieut.-Commander Williams
Mr. Broad Mr. William Coote Mr. Devlin		

Noes, 8.

Sir Edward Beauchamp Sir Maurice Dockrell Lieut.-Col. Walter Guinness	Mr. Harbison Major Newman Captain Redmond	Mr. Strauss Mr. Aneurin Williams
---	---	-------------------------------------

Question, "That the proposed words be there inserted,"—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 25, at the end, to insert the words:—

"Provided that if the council of any borough within the prescribed time submit to the Local Government Board a scheme for the division of the borough into borough electoral areas and the assignment of members thereto the Board shall adopt the scheme except where and so far as they see good reason to the contrary."—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, in line 8, after the word "shall," to leave out the words "adopt the scheme," in order to insert the words "hold a local enquiry"—(Mr. MacVeagh),—instead thereof.—Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Amendment.—The Committee divided:—

Ayes, 18.

Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland	Mr. Lindsay Mr. Lynn Mr. Moles Major Newman Mr. Reginald Nicholson Major O'Neill Sir John Randles	Mr. Reid Sir William Seager Mr. Strauss Major Waring Lieut.-Commander Williams
Mr. Broad Mr. William Coote Sir Maurice Dockrell Mr. Donald Major Henderson		

Noes, 5.

Mr. Devlin Mr. Harbison	Mr. Irving Mr. MacVeagh	Captain Redmond
----------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------

Original Question put.—The Committee divided:—

Ayes, 17.

Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland	Major Henderson Mr. Lindsay Mr. Lynn Mr. Moles Mr. Reginald Nicholson Major O'Neill	Sir John Randles Mr. Reid Sir William Seager Mr. Strauss Major Waring Lieut.-Commander Williams
Mr. Broad Mr. William Coote Sir Maurice Dockrell Mr. Donald		

Noes, 5.

Mr. Devlin Mr. Harbison	Mr. Irving Mr. MacVeagh	Captain Redmond
----------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------

Another Amendment made, in page 3, line 25, after the last Amendment, by inserting the words :—

"(4) For the purposes of elections conducted according to the principle of proportional representation the scale of election expenses fixed by any county council under Article 6 of the Schedule to The Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898, may be increased or otherwise altered by the Local Government Board, and as so altered shall have effect as if it had been made under that article by the county council with the approval of the Board"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

[Adjourned till Monday, 12th May, at 4 o'clock.

Monday, 12th May, 1919.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Captain ALANET SWINN is the Chair.

Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland	Mr. Edward Kelly
Mr. Bowerman	Mr. Lindsay
Major Breese	Mr. Lynn
Mr. Broad	Mr. MacVeagh
Colonel Campion	Major Morrison-Bell
Mr. William Coote	Major Newman
Mr. Devlin	Mr. O'Grady
Sir Maurice Dockrell	Major O'Neill
Mr. Donald	Captain Redmond
Lieut.-Colonel Walter Guinness	Mr. Reid
Mr. Harbison	Mr. Strauss
Major Henderson	Major Waring
Mr. Hurd	Mr. Aneurin Williams
Mr. Irving	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL.

Clause 2.

Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 37, to leave out the word "twenty," in order to insert the words "twenty-five"—(Major O'Neill),—instead thereof.—Question, "That the word 'twenty' stand part of the Clause," put, and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3, agreed to.

Clause 4.

Amendment proposed, in page 3, line 8, to leave out the word "three," in order to insert the word "six"—(Mr. Lynn),—instead thereof.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Another Amendment proposed, in page 3, line 11, to leave out the words "the triennial," in order to insert the word "any"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland),—instead thereof.—Question, "That the words 'the triennial' stand part of the clause,"—put, and negatived.

Question, "That the word 'any' be there inserted,"—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment made, in page 3, line 11, after the word "election," by inserting the words "of the full number"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Another Amendment made, in page 3, line 20, after the word "any," by inserting the word "such"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Another Amendment made, in page 3, line 31, by leaving out the words "last preceding ordinary day of retirement," and inserting the words "day next after the day of the election"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5.

Amendment proposed, in page 3, lines 37 and 38, to leave out the words "the ordinary day of election of councillors and commissioners," in order to insert the words "a day to be fixed by the local authority in the month of June"—(Mr. MacVeagh).—Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause,"—put, and agreed to.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 6.

Amendment made, in page 4, line 11, to leave out the words "first day of June," and to insert the words "ordinary day of election"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Another Amendment made, in page 4, line 12, by leaving out all the words after the word "nineteen" to the word "shall," in line 16—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Another Amendment made, in page 4, line 16, by leaving out the words "nineteen as fixed by or in pursuance of this section," and inserting the word "twenty"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Another Amendment made, in page 4, line 17, by leaving out the word "existing"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Another Amendment made, in page 4, line 17, after the second word "of," by inserting the words "each existing"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Another Amendment made, in page 4, line 20, by leaving out sub-section (2) and inserting a new sub-section:—

"(2) In this section the expression 'existing councillor and guardian' means a councillor or guardian holding office on the ordinary day of election in the year nineteen hundred and nineteen"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Notice being taken that 20 Members were not present, the Committee was adjourned till To-morrow, at 11 o'clock.

Tuesday, 13th May, 1919.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Captain ALFRED SMITH in the Chair.

Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland	Mr. Lyan
Major Brose	Mr. MacVeagh
Mr. Broad	Major Newman
Colonel Campion	Mr. Reginald Nicholson
Mr. Devlin	Major O'Neill
Sir Maurice Dockrell	Mr. Reid
Lieut.-Colonel Walter Guinness	Major Waring
Mr. Harbison	Mr. Aneurin Williams
Mr. Hard	Lieut.-Commander Williams
Mr. Edward Kelly	Sir Alfred Yeo
Mr. Lindsay	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL.

Clause 7, further considered.

Question, "That Clause 7 stand part of the Bill,"—put, and negatived.

Clause 8.

An Amendment made, in page 5, line 14, by inserting after the word "make" the words "such orders as appeal to them to be necessary or proper for giving full effect to this Act, including"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Another Amendment made, in page 5, line 23, by inserting after the word "enactment" the words "including any local Act"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Another Amendment made, in page 5, line 26, by inserting after the word "members" the word "committees"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Another Amendment proposed, in page 5, line 39, after the word "Act," to insert the words:—

"(c) providing that all local elections in any electoral area may be held on one day, and that nominations to different local authorities may be set forth on the same or on different ballot papers"—(Mr. Mcloughlin).

Question, "That those words be there inserted,"—put, and negatived.

Another Amendment made, in page 5, line 31, by leaving out the word "held"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Another Amendment made, in page 5, line 36, by inserting after the word "Act" the words "shall have effect as if enacted in this Act, but"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 9—11, agreed to.

New Clause ("Application to Sligo borough") brought up, and read the first time as follows:—

"This Act, in its application to the council of the borough of Sligo and the election of members of that council, shall have effect with the following modifications, namely:—

The first triennial election after the passing of this Act of aldermen and councillors shall be held on the fifteenth day of January in the year nineteen hundred and twenty-three, and the existing term of office of aldermen and councillors shall be extended so as to expire on the sixteenth day of January in that year, and accordingly in sections two and five of this Act a reference to the year nineteen hundred and twenty-three shall be substituted for any references to the year nineteen hundred and twenty"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Clause read a second time, and added to the Bill.

Another New Clause ("Deposits by candidates") brought up, and read the first time as follows:—

"(1) A candidate at a local election or some one on his behalf shall deposit or cause to be deposited with, the returning officer during the time appointed for the election the sum of five pounds, and if he fails to do so he shall be deemed to be withdrawn within the provisions of The Ballot Act, 1872.

(2) The deposit may be made by the deposit of any legal tender or, with the consent of the returning officer, in any other manner.

(3) If after the deposit is made the candidate is withdrawn in pursuance of the provision of The Ballot Act, 1872, the deposit shall be returned to the person by whom the deposit was made, and if the candidate dies after the deposit is made or before the poll is commenced the deposit, if made by him, shall be returned to his legal personal representative, or if not made by him shall be returned to the person by whom the deposit was made.

(4) If a candidate who has made the required deposit is not elected and the number of votes polled by him does not exceed one-tenth of the number of votes polled divided by the number of members to be elected, the amount deposited shall be forfeited to His Majesty; but, in any other case, that amount shall be returned to the candidate as soon as practicable after the result of the election is declared.

(5) For the purpose of this section the number of votes polled shall be deemed to be the number of ballot papers (other than spoilt ballot papers) counted and the number of votes polled by a candidate shall be the highest number of votes counted to him at any period during the counting of the votes" —(*Sir Maurice Dockrell*).

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

Motion and Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Another New Clause ("Protection of existing local officers") brought up, and read the first time as follows:—

"(1) If any officer of a local authority who holds on the passing of this Act a pensionable office is removed from his office for any cause other than misconduct or incapacity or resigns his office with the sanction of the Local Government Board, he shall, without prejudice to any other right, be entitled to receive from the local authority an allowance not exceeding two-thirds of the salary, fees, and emoluments which he was in receipt of at the time of the removal or resignation and not less than an allowance calculated according to the scale provided by The Superannuation Acts, 1834 to 1892, and the rules thereunder, if at that time he has served as an officer of the local authority for not less than ten years or a gratuity according to the scale in Part I of the Seventh Schedule to The Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, if he has so served for less than ten years, and the right to, and amount of, any such allowance or gratuity shall, in case of dispute, be determined by the Local Government Board.

(2) The Local Government Board shall not give their sanction to the resignation of an officer for the purposes of this section unless they are satisfied that owing to changes made without reasonable cause in the conditions of his employment after the passing of this Act his position has been materially altered to his detriment.

(3) This section shall apply to a whole-time officer of a committee of a local authority, or of a joint committee of several local authorities, in like manner as if he were an officer of the local authority or authorities holding a pensionable office, and in the case of an officer of a joint committee the amount of the superannuation allowance or gratuity shall be payable by the local authorities in such proportions as may be agreed upon, or, in default of agreement, as may be determined by the Local Government Board.

(4) In this section 'local authority' means the council of any county, county borough, or county district, the commissioners of any town, and the guardians of any poor law union"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Clause read a second time, and added to the Bill.

Another New Clause ("Amalgamation of small rural districts") brought up, and read the first time, as follows:—

"Where the population of any rural district is less than five thousand the Local Government Board shall, if it is conveniently possible, amalgamate the district with an adjoining rural district in the same county, and for that purpose sub-section (5) of section sixty-eight of The Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, shall apply whether the Board have or have not amalgamated the unions comprised in the rural districts"—(Lieut.-Colonel Walter Guinness).

Amendment proposed, in line 1, to leave out the word "five," in order to insert the word "four"—(Lieut.-Colonel Walter Guinness),—instead thereof.—Question, "That the word 'five' stand part of the Clause,"—put, and negatived.

Notice being taken that 20 Members were not present, the Committee was adjourned till To-morrow, at 11 o'clock.

Wednesday, 14th May, 1919.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Captain ALBERT SMITH in the Chair.

Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland	Mr. MacVeagh
Major Barker	Major Morrison-Bell
Mr. Broad	Major Newman
Mr. Clough	Major O'Neill
Captain Dixon	Lieut.-Colonel Pownall
Sir Maurice Dockrell	Captain Redmond
Mr. Donald	Mr. Reid
Mr. Duncan Graham	Sir William Seager
Lieut.-Colonel Walter Guinness	Mr. Strauss
Mr. Harbison	Major Waring
Major Henderson	Colonel Weston
Mr. Edward Kelly	Mr. Aneurin Williams
Mr. Lindsay	Lieut.-Commander Williams
Mr. Lynn	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL.

Proposed New Clause ("Amalgamation of small rural districts"), further considered.

Amendments made, in line 1, by inserting in lieu of the word left out the word "four"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland); and in line 1, after the word "thousand," by inserting the words "and its rateable value is less than twenty thousand pounds"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Clause, as amended, added to the Bill.

Schedule.

An Amendment made, in page 7, line 10, column 3, by leaving out from the word "two" to the word "the," in line 12—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland).

Another Amendment proposed, in page 7, line 16, column 3, after the word "and," to insert the words "section three"—(Major Newman).—Question proposed "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed, in page 7, line 16, column 3, after the word "and," to insert the words "sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) of section three"—(Mr. Harbison).—Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The Committee divided:—

Ayes, 12.

Major Barker	Mr. Edward Kelly	Captain Redmond
Mr. Broad	Mr. MacVeagh	Mr. Strauss
Mr. Duncan Graham	Major Morrison-Bell	Major Waring
Mr. Harbison	Major Newman	Mr. Anenir Williams

Noes, 16.

Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland	Lieut.-Col. Walter Guinness	Mr. Reid
Mr. Clough	Major Henderson	Sir William Seager
Captain Dixon	Mr. Lindsay	Mr. Seddon
Sir Maurice Dockrell	Mr. Lynn	Colonel Weston
Mr. Donald	Mr. Reginald Nicholson	Lieut.-Commander Williams
	Major O'Neill	

Another Amendment made, in page 7, line 23, by leaving out from the word "twenty-three" to the end of the Schedule, and adding the words "paragraph (b) down to 'division and,' the words from 'may give' to 'division and' in paragraph (c), and in section twenty-four, paragraphs (c) and (d)"—(Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland),—instead thereof.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Ordered, To Report the Bill, as amended, to the House.